

**MINUTES OF THE  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, May 23, 2001 - 9:00 a.m. S Room 405 State Capitol**

**Members Present:**

Sen. John W. Hickman, Chair  
Rep. Craig W. Buttars, Chair  
Sen. Ron Allen  
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard  
Sen. Millie M. Peterson  
Rep. Eli H. Anderson  
Rep. DeMar "Bud" Bowman  
Rep. Don E. Bush  
Rep. Neil A. Hansen  
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson  
Rep. Bradley A. Winn  
Rep. Peggy Wallace

**Members Absent:**

Pres. Al Mansell  
Rep. Ron Bigelow

**Staff Present:**

Mr. John Q. Cannon, Research Analyst  
Mr. John L. Fellows, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Alicia Gambles, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present and handouts distributed are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Buttars called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**2. Committee Business**

**MOTION:** Rep. Winn moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2001 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard and Rep. Wallace absent for the vote.

**3. Boards and Commissions**

Mr. John Cannon, Research Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, briefed the committee on the issue of boards and commissions in the state. He reminded the committee of their request during the 2000 Interim to receive more information in order to study which boards and commissions could be repealed. Committee discussion followed.

Ms. Nancy Brown, Director of Boards and Commissions, Governor's Office, gave an overview on the information previously sent to the committee. She indicated that each board is very unique and serves a different constituency group or community. Ms. Brown explained that she is responsible for maintaining the information about boards and commissions through a database for the governor. She discussed the difficulty of evaluating the fiscal impact of boards and commissions and noted how information can be accessed through the web site. Committee discussion followed.

Committee members discussed boards authorized by the Constitution, by statute, and by rule, and discussed the Senate's role in confirming appointments.

Chair Buttars stated that the chairs will review the list and also requested committee members to review the list and indicate which boards and commissions could be reviewed by the committee. He requested that Ms. Brown recommend to the committee which boards and commissions are not functioning and which ones could be reviewed further or possibly eliminated.

#### **4. Election Reform**

Mr. John Fellows, Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, briefed the committee on the issue of election reform. He stated that many of the statutory provisions Florida lacks, Utah also lacks. He indicated that there may be a need to think through what processes to follow in the event of a serious election contest. He mentioned that there is ample scope for review of Utah's election process and for statutory changes that would help Utah to avoid having the same problems as Florida in the next presidential election. Committee discussion followed.

Lieutenant Governor Olene Walker discussed the election reform issue. She distributed to the committee a handout titled "Lt. Governor's Recommended Study Items." She discussed those items and recommended solutions. Lt. Governor Walker strongly recommended that a uniform ballot be created for the state that would be easily understood by all residents of Utah. Committee discussion followed.

Sen. Hickman noted that a considerable amount of time will be spent looking at election laws to improve them. He indicated his concern for lack of uniformity in the state. He requested that the committee study the issue and, particularly, look at ways the voting procedures could be improved.

Ms. Linda Lunceford, Weber County Clerk, discussed the election reform issue including her involvement in designing and testing an internet voting system for military and overseas citizens. She also discussed the problems associated with the presidential election in Florida last year. Ms. Lunceford stated that Florida lacked clear and consistent laws, policies, and standards that needed to be in place before election day. She noted that there will never be a single dramatic solution to the election process, only a sustained effort toward change to improve the process and provide long-term solutions. Committee discussion followed.

Mr. Stuart Wallace, private citizen of West Jordan, Citizens for a Fair Vote Count, presented information on election reform. He indicated the public's lack of confidence in the

voting process and addressed the issue of computer voting technology. He noted the potential for voting fraud and made recommendations to the committee regarding the process of hand counting ballots. Committee discussion followed.

Mr. Todd Taylor, Executive Director, Utah Democratic Party, indicated the specific problems associated with internet voting. Committee discussion followed.

**MOTION:** Sen. Hillyard moved that committee staff review and report on which of the study items from Lt. Gov. Walker's solutions need to be addressed with legislation and which ones could be addressed through administrative means. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Allen absent for the vote.

## **5. Campaign Finance, Ethics, and Lobbyist Disclosure**

Mr. Fellows distributed a booklet titled "Statutes and Rules Governing Ethics, Campaign Finance, and Lobbyist Disclosure."

Mr. Cannon discussed legislative conflicts of interest and legislative ethics. He discussed the governing provisions in statute and rule and possible penalties. He also discussed the requirements in Joint Rule 16.03 for legislative ethics.

Mr. Fellows discussed the issue of gifts to legislators, campaign finance, and lobbyist disclosure. He explained the current laws and rules governing those activities and how the committee can receive more information. Committee discussion followed.

Ms. Sandy Peck, Legislative Action Director, League of Women Voters, discussed the issue of campaign finance, ethics, and lobbyist disclosure. Committee discussion followed.

## **6. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Bowman moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

